

**Tuesdays with Tammy Nevada Libraries Forum**  
from  
**Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records**  
10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday  
August 4, 2020

**Notes**

Attending: Tammy Westergard, Sulin Jones, Norma Fowler, Bruce Douglass, Betts Markle, NSLAPR; Walker MacKenzie, NSLAPR intern; Guest speaker – Grant Clowers, Carson Tahoe Behavioral Health Services; Elia Keating; Stacie Schwartz; Anne Karr, Boulder City; Diane Baker, Tod Colegrove, Carson City; Amy Dodson, Douglas County; Robbie Nickel, Elko; Bethie Schnapp, Joy Gunn, Marcie Smedley, Henderson; Jessica Anderson, Humboldt County; Danielle Milam, LVCCLD; Courtney Oberhansli, Mineral County; Alysha Wogee, Shanna Gibbons, Pahrump; Kathie Brinkerhoff, Pershing County; Jeff Scott, Joan Dalusung, Washoe County; Lara Schott, Sierra Nevada College; Kathy Ray, UNR; Mary Schultz, UNR Medical Library; Maggie Farrell, UNLV; Ron Belbin, WNC; Randi Hunewill, Nancy Schmidt, SCLL.



## **WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW**



### **Strengths:**

- Libraries are flexible in times of crisis.
- Libraries share professional expertise with their communities.
- Libraries support each other in the library community.
- Libraries can provide resources, information, options, and opportunities to help patrons think clearly when they aren't able to do so for themselves at that moment.



### **Struggles:**

- Struggling to maintain services while keeping a safe work environment.
- Finding ways to assist their communities during the COVID19 pandemic and economic downturn.



### **Opportunities**

- To assist patrons in a "stress state" by providing resources, information, and options.



### **Trends**

- Collaborative partnerships with others.

### Announcements:

- Webinars involving customer service and mental wellness are posted on our site: <https://nsla.nv.gov/COVID19/10MinuteWellness> .
- Grant Clowers, LCSW, Psychotherapist, will be providing August webinars dealing with helping patrons with job loss, building new skills, and redirecting mindsets.
- State Council on Literacy and Libraries (SCLL) will be held August 14, 10:00-11:00 am, online via Zoom **uso2webzoom.us/j/84495045843** The Directors' Meeting will follow from 11:00-noon on the same Zoom link. Meeting materials will be posted by August 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 <https://nsla.nv.gov/SCLL081420> . The focus of the Directors' meeting will "SOAR Revisited".
- "Creating Opportunity: New Jobs Require Digital Skills and Broadband": [https://www.benton.org/blog/creating-opportunity-new-jobs-require-digital-skills-and-broadband?utm\\_source=sendgrid&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Newsletters](https://www.benton.org/blog/creating-opportunity-new-jobs-require-digital-skills-and-broadband?utm_source=sendgrid&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletters)
- Danielle Milam has been appointed Acting Deputy Director for LVCCLD.
- Joy Gunn has been promoted to Assistant Director of Henderson Library System.
- Western Nevada College is advertising for the position of Discovery Librarian on the College employment website. This is a trainee position opportunity for those in a Library School Master's program and will run for two to three years.
- ALA Holding Space tour coming to Nevada, August 6, 11:00 am, via Zoom. Senator Cortez-Masto recorded a powerful video in support.

Guest Speaker: Grant Clowers, LCSW, Psychotherapy and Clinical Services Supervisor for Carson Tahoe Hospital Behavior Therapy and Acceptance and Commitment Therapy.

- Losing a job is more than losing job. Our work and our lifestyle are reflections of ourselves. Job loss can be seen both as a tragedy, which isn't helpful, and as an opportunity, which is helpful.
- Job loss is a loss of self identity and a sense of who we are. Our culture links identity with our career, and losing a job or taking a lesser job increases the sense of failure, loss, and stress.
- The more stressed we are, the less we are able to see options. As librarians, expect to see patrons who lost a job or taking a lesser one will be in a stressed state.
- Symptoms of a stressed state: not thinking clearly; being unable to shift focus from loss to opportunity.
- Librarians can help patrons overcome a stressed state by providing resources, information, options, and opportunities that help them think clearly when they can't do it for themselves at that moment.

### SOAR Revisited:

- SOAR: Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results.
- Please review the 2018 SOAR document: <https://nsla.nv.gov/statewide-initiatives/lets-talk-pledge>
- Please complete 2020 SOAR survey by Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 <https://nsla-nv.libwizard.com/f/SOAR2020>

### Check-In:

Amy Dodson, Douglas County:

- The library wrote a diversity statement that was posted on social media. Shortly afterwards the statement was removed at the request of the county and District Attorney. The Library Board recommended placing it on the next agenda for the July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting. This led to a misperception by the public that the diversity statement had been approved rather than being an item up for discussion and approval by the board. There was a strong public response and within 24 hours of the agenda being posted, the Douglas County Sheriff posted an open letter online, which the library perceived as a threat to withhold emergency 911 response services to the library because of support expressed in the statement for Black Lives Matter. Amy had a discussion with Sheriff where he clarified his statement as that his department would respond to 911 calls from the library.
- The Sheriff and Amy posted a joint letter to calm tensions and outrage from the public. Amy and the Sheriff have had no further contact since.
- There will be a protest on Saturday at the Law Enforcement Center-not the library-regarding the Sheriff's statement. As a precaution, the Douglas County Library will be closed on that day.
- In response to the pressure, the Board released a statement that staff felt shifted the blame from the Board to the library and library staff for the diversity statement.
- There have been no credible threats made to the library, but there are calls for Amy's resignation and arrest.
- No county officials have called for her resignation.
- The library has received a great deal of support from the public, the state library, other libraries, and librarians from across the country for both the statement and for the Douglas County Library.
- The national media coverage of this issue has been high.
- The library would appreciate any statements and letters of support from the NLA, Nevada State Library, other libraries, library organizations, librarians, civic groups, government officials.
- The next Douglas County Library Board meeting is on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and any support for the staff and library would be helpful. The agenda has not yet been set, and Amy is not sure if the diversity statement will be on the agenda.
- The local philanthropy group, The Bently Organization, is making a donation of \$25,000.00 to the library. Other people have also reached out to make donations.

Marcie Smedley, Henderson Library:

- Following a national search, Joy Gunn has been promoted to Assistant Director of Henderson District Public Libraries.

Ron Belbin, Western Nevada College:

- We support the Douglas County Library and will submit a statement soon.
- The campus opened last week with the library offering limited hours of operation. The library is working to ensure a healthy and safe environment.
- We are advertising for the Discovery Librarian position on the College employment website. This is a trainee position opportunity for those in a Library School Master's program and will run for two to three years.

Tod Colegrove, Carson City Library:

- Appeared on “Good Morning Carson” to discuss the services the Carson City Library offers.
- Expressed support for the Douglas County library from the Carson City library and trustees.

Danielle Milam, Las Vegas Clark County Library Department:

- Danielle Milam has been appointed Acting Deputy Director for LVCCLD.
- Responded to Nancy Brune regarding the OWINN Reimagine Workforce grant application for CARES funding. The application includes one million dollars for marketing libraries as part of the workforce solution. We also provided to them a list of our most used business, workforce, job seeker databases and virtual resources.
- Clark County School District has decided to do all virtual classes and we are in preliminary discussions for the library to provide classroom space.